

a second tube inserted through, and extending distally from, said orifice inside said inflation lumen, said second tube having a length, a lumen therethrough, a proximal portion, an inside wall surface and an outside wall surface; and

a bonding region wherein said second tube outside wall surface is bonded to said first tube outside wall surface by re-flow of the first and second tube outside wall surfaces, said second tube inside wall surface being formed of a second, lubricious material for a majority of said second tube length, said first tube wall having a layer of a first, flexible material extending for a majority of said first tube length, said first material being different from said second material.

Remarks

Applicants have carefully reviewed the office action dated May 24, 2001. Claims 24-43 are pending. Claims 24-43 were rejected. Claims XX have been canceled. Claim X has been amended.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 49-55 and 61-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sirhan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,743,875). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Sirhan et al. discloses a catheter having an inflation lumen traversing the length of the catheter and a guidewire lumen exiting the side of the inflation lumen. Sirhan et al. does not disclose a bond where the outer surface of one tube is bonded to the outer surface of a second tube to provide a sealed joint. Rather, outer tubular member is joined to inner tubular member distally with a lap joint, the outer surface of inner tubular member 33 being bonded to the inner surface of outer tubular member 32. Proximal of balloon 37, the two tubular members are joined